

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WELLIN 04008 030601Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 DRC-01
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-----068465 030604Z /13/47

R 010547Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6004
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA

CONFIDENTIAL WELLINGTON 4008

CORRECTED COPY (MRN 4008 VICE 04004)

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAIR, NZ
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONTINENTAL APPLICATION FOR LICENSE

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OFFICIALS INFORM US THAT THEY ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THE CONTINENTAL APPLICATION. THEY EXPECT, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, TO PUBLISH NOTIFICATION OF THE INTENDING DECISION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, AFTER WHICH TIME THREE WEEKS MUST ELAPSE BEFORE THE MATTER CAN BE REFERRED TO THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT FOR A DECISION. SUCH A DECISION IS EXPECTED IN MID-SEPTEMBER. GNZ OFFICIALS HAVE ASKED WHEN WOULD CONTINENTAL PLAN TO BEGIN ACTUAL OPERATIONS IF APPROVAL WERE GRANTED. CONTINENTAL EARLIER HAS SAID "WITHIN SIX MONTHS", BUT THE GNZ SEEMS TO WANT A MORE PRECISE DATE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD INFORMALLY AND CONFIDENTIALLY THAT THE DELAY IN ACTING ON THE CONTINENTAL APPLICATION SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ANY WAY AS A NEGATIVE RESPONSE. RATHER, THE NEW ZEALANDERS ARE AWARE OF THE AUGUST 28 CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AUSTRALIANS AND HAVE NO WISH TO BE PUT IN A POSITION WHERE THEIR ACTION COULD BE SEEN AS HAVING AN INFLUENCE, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, ON U.S.-AUSTRALIAN TALKS. THREE WEEKS AGO THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT HELD A DAY-LONG MEETING, ATTENDED BY

AIR NEW ZEALAND, TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THIS COUNTRY'S AVIATION POLICY, INCLUDING THE CONTINENTAL APPLICATION. ALTHOUGH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN FAIRLY CIRCUMSPECT IN THEIR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS MEETING, WE BELIEVE FROM BITS AND PIECES GATHERED ELSEWHERE THAT BOTH THE GNZ AND AIR NEW ZEALAND HAVE NOW DEFINITELY ACCEPTED CONTINENTAL'S ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL PROBABLY SEEK SOME TYPE OF BROAD UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE QUESTION OF CAPACITY AND FARES. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT HAD ANYTHING OFFICIAL, WE HAVE DETECTED SOME SIGNS THAT THE GNZ IS ALSO CONSIDERING ASKING FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. RIGHTS, PERHAPS TO SAN FRANCISCO, AS PART OF AN ARRANGEMENT REGARDING CONTINENTAL. END CONFIDENTIAL.
SELDEN

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NNN

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: CONTINENTAL APPLICATION FOR LICENSE
TAGS: EAIR, NZ
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